

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 010953Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 608

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2541

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW 4; CONTACTS WITH BRITISH IN KHARTOUM

REF: STATE 258219 AND 259430

1. REVIEWED KAGNEW 4 CASE WITH BRITISH HERE NOV. 1. THEY CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE IN INDIRECT TOUCH WITH ELF IN KHARTOUM THROUGH PRIVATE UK CITIZEN WHO HERE TEMPORARILY AND VOLUNTEERED HIS SERVICES. SINCE DIALOGUE THUS ESTABLISHED, THEY DO NOT WISH AT PRESENT STAGE APPROACH SUDANESE DIRECTLY (ADDIS 12800). WE TOLD BRITISH WE WERE GLAD LEARN THIS. GOS HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO US IN KAGNEW 2 CASE BUT EARLY APPROACH TO THEM BY BRITISH MIGHT OVERLOAD CIRCUIT. WE NOTED SUDANESE SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNABLE MAKE MUCH PROGRESS VIS-A-VIS PLF. BRITISH RESPONDED THAT MIGHT BE ADDITIONAL REASON FOR HMG NOT INVOLVING SUDANESE, SINCE THEY HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS BURWOOD-TAYLOR MAY BE HELD BY PLF.

2. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT AS TO OUR COMMON POLICIES TOWARD TERRORISM AND SEIZURE OF HOSTAGES EXCEPT ON ONE POINT WHICH APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON
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(STATE 259430). WHILE KAGNEW 4 ARE EITHER USG EMPLOYEES OR

WORK FOR USG CONTRACTOR, BURWOOD-TAYLOR REPRESENTS A PRIVATE FIRM IN ASMARA (GELATLY-HANKEY) AND IS NOT REPEAT NOT BRITISH OFFICIAL. ACCORDINGLY, BIRTHS HERE UNCERTAIN WHAT HMG POSITION MIGHT TAKE, OR HOW EFFECTIVE SUCH STEPS MIGHT BE OR, SHOULD GELATLY-HANKEY DECIDE NEGOTIATE AND PAY RANSOM FOR BURWOOD/ATAYLOR'S RELEASE IN MANNER TENNECO CASE LAST YEAR. WE TOLD BRITISH THAT EMBASSY HAD NO GUIDANCE ON POINT. SHOULD THIS BECOME PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF NO SUCH RANSOM PAID AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER RELEASE KAGNEW 4.

3. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT GELATLY-HANKEY HAS BECOME INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS RE BURWOOD-TAYLOR, DEPT MAY WISH CONSIDER CLARIFYING FOREGOING WITH HMG. SINCE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PRIVATE CITIZENS, HONORARY CONSULS, AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LIKELY BE LOST ON UNSOPHISTICATED ERITREANS, WE WOULD ASSUME ANY INDICATION TO THEM FROM GELATLY-HANKEY THAT RANSOM MIGHT BE ENTERTAINED WOULD BE UNHELPFUL.
BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, LIBERATION FRONTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO02541
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0145
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751184/aaaacxjs.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 258219
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAGNEW 4; CONTACTS WITH BRITISH IN KHARTOUM
TAGS: PINS, SU, ELF, (BURWOOD-TAYLOR, BAZIL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006